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THURSDAY, September 11, 2025

The Courier Leader

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WINE AND HARVEST FESTIVAL DOES PAW PAW PROUD

From grape stomping to sipping wine, a great weekend was "uncorked" Courier Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

Ultimate Air Dogs made a return visit to the Wine and Harvest Festival, attracting a variety of dogs competing to make a "splash" in the water tank.

A wide variety of vehicles were on display Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Grape Escape Classic Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show held in downtown Paw Paw.

An Arts and Craft Show was held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, as part of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

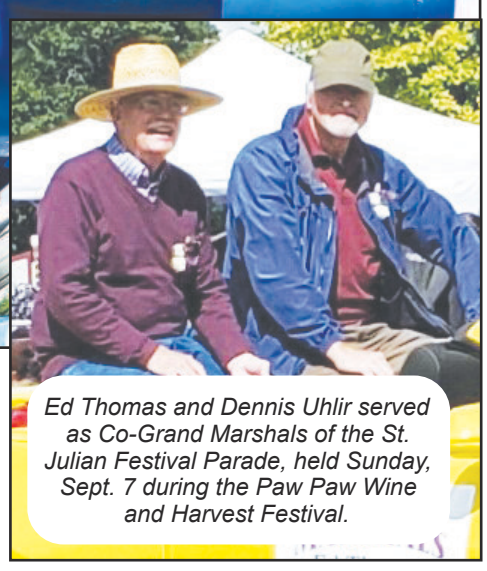
Four Flags Apple Festival entered this float in the St. Julian Festival Parade, held Sunday, Sept. 7, as part of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

Members of the Paw Paw McGowan-Johnson American Legion Post make their way down the St. Julian Festival Parade, held Sunday, Sept. 7 in Paw Paw.

Grape stomping, a popular event at the Wine and Harvest Festival, saw a variety of competitors, from single matches to team efforts.

St. Julian Winery displayed vintage company trucks in the St. Julian Festival Parade, held Sunday, Sept. 7.

Family Fun Tyme Amusements provided several rides and other amusements for festival goers during the three-day Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.



Ed Thomas and Dennis Uhlir served as Co-Grand Marshals of the St. Julian Festival Parade, held Sunday, Sept. 7 during the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

Santa Claus was a participant in the St. Julian Festival parade, held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 7 as part of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

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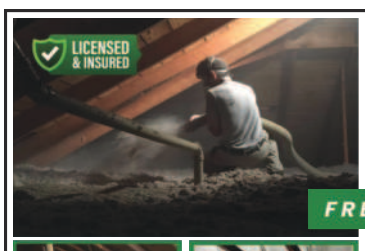

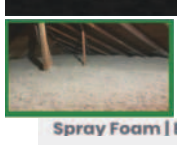

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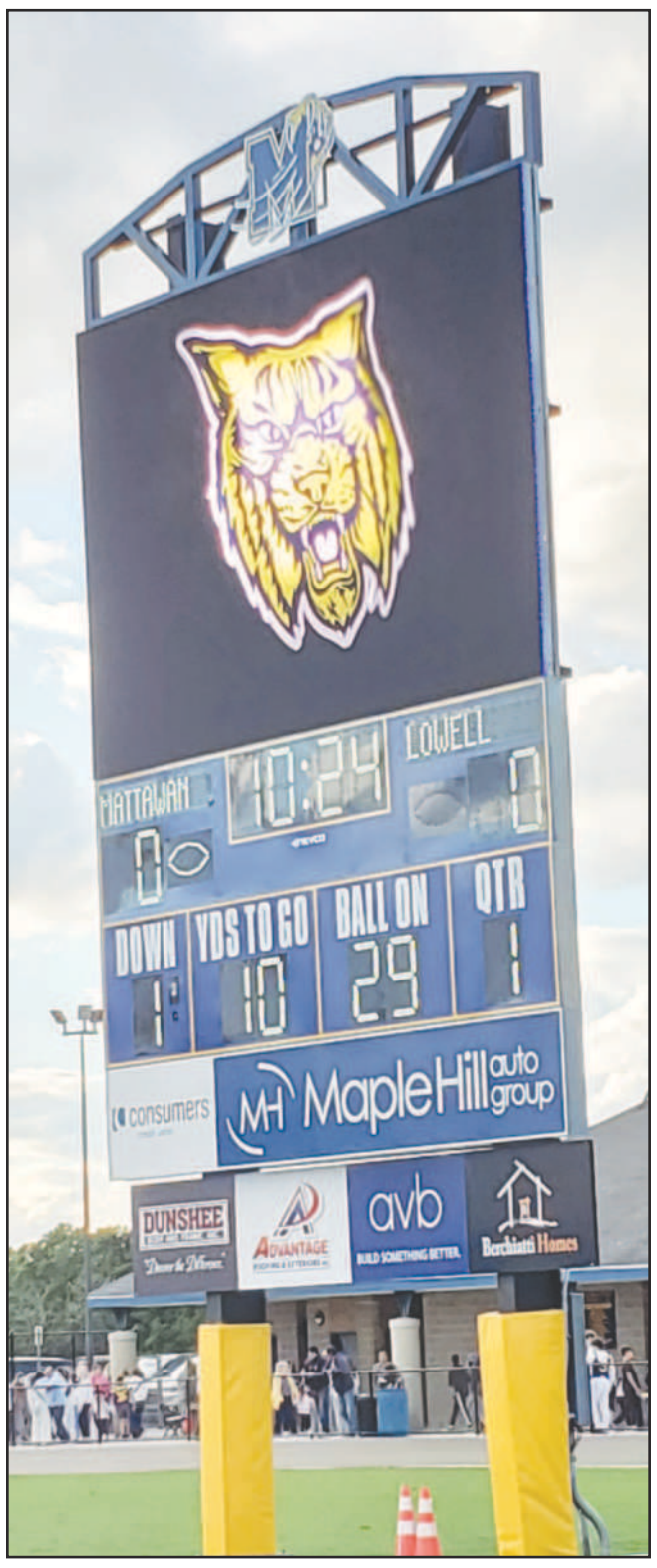
2ND FRONT PAGE

Ribbon cutting celebration held Sept. 5, at Mattawan Stadium



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Friday, Sept. 5, celebrating the completion of Phase One of Mattawan Stadium, a new turf and track, and scoreboard at Mattawan Consolidated School. The stadium will be renovated in multiple phases, with Stadium Work, Phase 2 planned to get underway in the summer of 2026. It will include renovations to the current press box and the addition of a new sound system, as well as the completion of the home bleacher facing. Stadium Work, Phase 3 will include the construction of a new entryway and concession on the south end of the current stadium, as well as cosmetic improvements to the current entryway on the north side of the stadium. Mattawan Consolidated School Superintendent Randy Fleenor, shown at far left, addressed the crowd, standing on the new turf near midfield, prior to the ribbon cutting. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

By Paul Garrod
Staff writer
news4garrod@gmal.com

MATTAWAN – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Friday, Sept. 5, celebrating the completion of Phase One of Mattawan Stadium, a new turf and track, at Mattawan Consolidated School.

The stadium will be renovated in multiple phases, with Stadium Work, Phase 2 planned to get underway in the summer of 2026. It will include renovations to the current press box and the addition of a new sound system, as well as the completion of the home bleacher facing. Stadium Work, Phase 3 will include the construction of a new entryway and concession on the south end of the current stadium, as well as cosmetic improvements to the current entryway on the north side of the stadium.

Mattawan Consolidated School Superintendent Randy Fleenor, addressing the crowd, standing on the new turf near midfield, told those gathered at the first home football game, just prior to the kickoff against Lowell, "What an exciting night for our school and community. It is my honor to welcome our students, staff, families, administration, and members of our Board of Education. I am especially proud to stand here with student representatives from a variety of our athletic programs and our band - because this field, and this investment, are truly for them. Tonight is about celebrating what happens when a community comes together for the future of its young people.

"Exactly 486 days ago - on May 7, 2024 - our community made a bold commitment by supporting a $110 million bond. That vote wasn't just about bricks and mortar, turf and track - it was a promise to our students that they deserve first-class facilities, modern learning spaces, and the very best opportunities. Tonight, we celebrate the very first chapter of that promise," said Fleenor.

Fleenor continued, "And what a chapter it is. To create this magnificent field, more than 30,000 yards of concrete were poured, 4,500 yards of stone were laid, 11,000 feet of pipe were installed, and over 16,500 combined hours of work went into bringing this dream to life. What was once a tired, well-used grass surface has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility that will host our athletes, our band, and our community for decades to come."

Fleenor said, "This transformation would not have been possible without the incredible teamwork of three partners who have guided us every step of the way: our owner's representatives, Veridus Advisors; our construction team, AVB; and our architects, TowerPinkster. Together, they have created something truly remarkable, the trifecta, if you will, and I think we can all agree the results speak for themselves."

He continued, "But friends, this is only the beginning. To your right, imagine with me: a 60,000-square-foot fieldhouse, anchored by a new aquatic center. Just beyond that, to the south, a multi-purpose turf field that will become home to our soccer program and countless other activities. Beyond that, a 12-court tennis complex ready to welcome athletes and families. This stadium, and the projects surrounding it, will be a centerpiece for school pride, community gatherings, and lifelong memories."

Fleenor said, "And beyond athletics, the story gets even bigger. Nearly $50 million of this bond is dedicated to academic enhancements, modernizing classrooms, labs, and learning spaces for our students and staff. These improvements will ensure that whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, our students are prepared to thrive in a world that demands innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

"When we step back and look at the whole picture, it's clear: your investment is ushering our district boldly into the future. You have given our children and grandchildren the tools to dream bigger, reach higher, and carry forward a legacy of excellence that will last for generations," said Fleenor.

Fleenor concluded, "So tonight, as we cut this ribbon, we do more than celebrate a new turf field. We celebrate the strength of our community, the power of vision, and the unwavering belief in what our students can achieve. Together, we are not just building facilities, we are building futures.

"Thank you for your support, your trust, and your partnership. Let's celebrate this incredible milestone, and the many more to come!"

Suspect sought in break-in of stolen motorcycle

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a break-in and larceny in the Village of Bloomingdale. A suspect broke into a residence and barn which isn't occupied every day. One of the items stolen was a 2007 Harley Davidson XL883. "Fortunately, another deputy had a traffic stop on the motorcycle and impounded it five days prior to the owner finding the break-in and his motorcycle stolen. With that, deputies are currently looking for the suspect who was in possession of it. Once the investigation is complete, deputies will be holding the individual/individuals accountable for their actions," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a rental car theft in Columbia Township. "The suspect took a rental car and never returned it to the company. The vehicle was located, impounded, and investigated by the deputy," said Sheriff Abbott. Charges are submitted on the suspect for the incident.

Dispatch took 6,118 phone calls in the month of August for calls for service. For the year, they are now at 45,036. Fun fact, in 2017, they took 5,584 calls for service in August. The same year, they were at 40,341 for the year. "As you can see, the call load has gone up a lot. For the month of August, Dispatch took 59,151 total phone calls, in which 23,209 came in on 911. Uniform Response had 411 traffic stops in August, putting them at 3,442 for the year. Uniform Response handled 869 calls for service in August, putting them at 6,783 for the year," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Porter Township. "It was found through the investigation an argument was taking place and when the victim was leaving, the suspect went after them while they were in the car with a hammer. The car was struck and damaged from the incident. The suspect was lodged for felonious assault," said Sheriff Abbott.

Undersheriff Casey Davis and Reserve Sgt/Emergency Management Assistant/Marine Deputy Walt Grech put on a presentation in Decatur about Mobile Cyber Security. "It was a great turnout with a lot of information passed along," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Just a reminder that school is back in and the Amish Schools are starting back up, so please use extra caution while driving during the needed specific times," said Sheriff Abbott.

Grape and Wine Festival and the Flywheelers both completed their long weekend events. "It's always a great time at those two events," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an assault call in Antwerp Township. It was found that one of the participants in the assault left on a moped. The moped was located and stopped at another location on the roadway. The driver was lodged for operating under the influence of alcohol (second offense).

Uniform Response recovered a stolen trailer in Bloomingdale Township. The trailer was reported stolen a few months ago. Once the investigation is complete, charges will be sought for those involved.

Uniform Response handled a larceny call in Hamilton Township. The victim had an Amazon package on their porch to be returned, and an unknown party stole it prior to pick-up.

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Meet Sarah Vochaska: Executive Director of Al-Van Humane Society

By James Windell

People often move to South Haven thinking it would be a great place to take it easy and relax. But a good many of those people find that there is a job waiting for them in South Haven.

That's the way it worked for Sarah Vochaska.

"I was born and raised in Southern California, and I married my husband who is from South Haven and that's how we ended up here," says Sarah Vochjaska, the Executive Director of Al-Van Humane Society. "After living in Los Angeles, I thought I was coming to South Haven to unwind and get away from the chaotic lifestyle I had there."

Before moving to South Haven, Vochaska was director of a large critical care and specialty hospital for pets in Los Angeles. "It was a huge role, and I learned a lot there," she recounts, "but that field can be mentally draining, so I thought it was time for me to move on to something less physically and less emotionally draining."

Soon after moving to South Haven, Vochaska opened a business in downtown South Haven called Paint Haven, which is an art studio where people can explore their creativity. "I opened up Paint Haven when I first came to South Haven," she said. "Then I learned about this opportunity – it just seemed like perfect timing and like the right step for me."

Vochaska said in a recent interview in her Al-Van Humane Society office, that it was somewhat difficult stepping into a role as executive director in a well-established business. "Al-Van has been here since 1968," she said, "and I didn't want to come in and turn the place upside down. I definitely valued everything that Al-Van had done over the years. But I looked for areas where there could be improvement."

Her main goals in the first few months were to upgrade some of the medical protocols that they had at Al-Van and do a lot of team-building training. "Since I have been here, I've focused on training the team on the medical side and giving them a little bit more medical knowledge," she said.

In the meantime, she was learning about all the events that Al-Van does regularly and determining how she could grow those events. "Now my long-term goals are to focus on community engagement and community education," she said. "After being in the emergency field, I realize that

preventative care is very important, so I really want to concentrate on community education programs in that area."

Vochaska said that they have two important events coming up in September. "First, we have the microchip event on September 19," she noted. "This is another way of doing preventative care at little cost. At a cost of $25.00 a pet, we will inject a tiny microchip and this will help with the problem of lost and stray dogs." She said that anyone can call Al-Van to place their name on the list for having a microchip implanted on September 19.

Another event is Par 4 Paws, a golf scramble that will take place on September 21. "This is a fundraising event that the Al-Van Humane Society has done for many years," Vochaska said. "It's a four-person scramble that will be at the Hawkshead Golf Course in South Haven."

Asked if she wanted to inform the public about anything related to the operation of Al-Van, Voschaska said she is aware that sometimes people get frustrated when Al-Van is not able to accept a stray animal they have found or a pet they need to surrender. "It's not that we don't want to help," she emphasized, "because we always want to help. But sometimes we are at our capacity and that means we do not have a cage available for another dog or cat. Our hearts are in in the right spot, but sometimes we have to say no because we are simply out of resources to help."

However, she pointed out that people can help by volunteering to foster or adopt pets that are in their shelter. Also, they can shop at Rescued Treasures, a resale shop next door to Al-Van. "One hundred percent of purchases at Rescued Treasures go directly to help out animals in the shelter," she said.

Al-Van Humane Society is located at 07591 Blue Star Highway, South Haven. Their phone number is 269-637-5062. More information can be found at their website at www.al-van.org/

Wings West and Wings Event Center to close, hockey parents worried

By Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

For many years, Wings West has been more than a building. It has been a gathering place, a training ground, and a second home for athletes, families, and fans. The beloved Texas Township hockey arena opened in 2002 as Twin Star Arena, but will unfortunately close down after this week.

Last week, the facility's owners, Greenleaf Hospitality Group, announced that the Wings West ice plant suffered a severe failure over the summer, and after careful consideration with the landlord, they have made the difficult decision to close. Friday, September 12th, will be the last day patrons can visit the entire facility, including the Pro Shop and Old Burdick's Bar & Grill.

Wings West currently serves as the home hockey rink for several area schools, including Mattawan High School and WMU, as well as youth and professional leagues. Greenleaf acknowledged this and released the following statement on the Wings West website and Facebook page.

"We know how difficult this news may feel. Please know that we are committed to carrying forward the community that has grown here. Ice programming will transition to Wings Event Center, which has three sheets of ice. We are carefully building schedules and are confident that 90% of current programs will continue there."

The statement also included information about their staff.

"Our people matter, just as we value our ice community user groups and our greater ice community. Every Wings West employee will be offered a position within Greenleaf Hospitality Group, so the teammates you know and value will continue to be part of our team."

One day later, the youth-oriented Kalamazoo Optimist Hockey Association (KOHA) sent a letter to hockey families, announcing that Greenleaf plans to close the Wings Event Center in the Spring of 2028.

After the announcements, hundreds of community members flocked to Facebook, Reddit, and wherever else they could gather to express sadness about the situation and reminisce about meaningful memories.

However, even more vocal than those expressing sadness were those expressing concern. Without either Wings, all that's left is the Harry W. Lawson Ice Arena on WMU's campus. Luckily, Kalamazoo will have a new downtown arena by then, but the new arena is slated to have only two ice rinks, and Lawson only has one. Currently, there are six ice rinks within Kalamazoo.

One of the ice rinks at Wings West

With hockey enthusiasts suggesting WMU will utilize one of the new rinks, plus Lawson's, and the K-Wings will mostly use the other new one, parents are concerned that it doesn't leave many opportunities for the kids.

They're concerned that the new arena's busy schedule doesn't leave much room for the programs, leagues, and teams currently housed

The Wings Event Center at Wings West, plus many of the specialty events held at Wings Event Center, such as the Michigan High School Athletic Association Statewide Wrestling Finals. Many worry that they will have to start looking to Battle Creek or Grand Rapids for these things.

To hopefully, maybe, quell some of these fears, Discover Kalamazoo President and CEO Jane Ghosh told WOOD-TV News 8 that they "will look for long-term solutions to keep running hockey tournaments and skating competitions, which bring visitors to the area and support the local economy."

In the meantime, hockey fan Nathan Johnson started a Change.org petition to save Wings West. He says it's an essential "community connection" and "a critical piece of the community's fabric," where the youth can "continue cultivating their athletic skills, learning teamwork, and building character." It's available at https://www.change.org/p/save-wings-west-ice-rink-in-kalamazoo-mi

Greenleaf is also inviting everyone who looks back fondly at Wings West to join them for one final toast.

"We are deeply grateful for the support, spirit, and memories you've shared with us here… While we close this chapter, we would love to celebrate what Wings West has meant to us all. Please join us for a final toast at Old Burdick's at Wings West before our last day, September 12… Thank you for being part of Wings West. The memories made here will always be part of the story of our community. "

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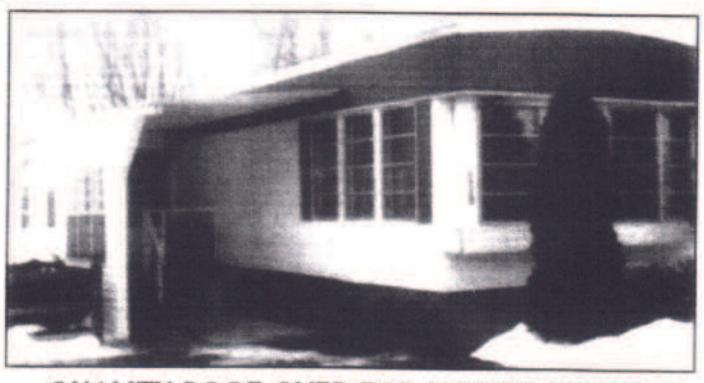

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The 42nd annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show was held Thursday, Sept. 4, through Sunday Sept. 7, in South Haven. The event featured antique tractor pulls, a lighted tractor parade, equipment parades and more. Attendees had an opportunity to view an airplane that was undergoing a transformation into a camper, as well as a "cow" tractor on parade.

Photos by Paul Garrod

Photos by Tom Renner

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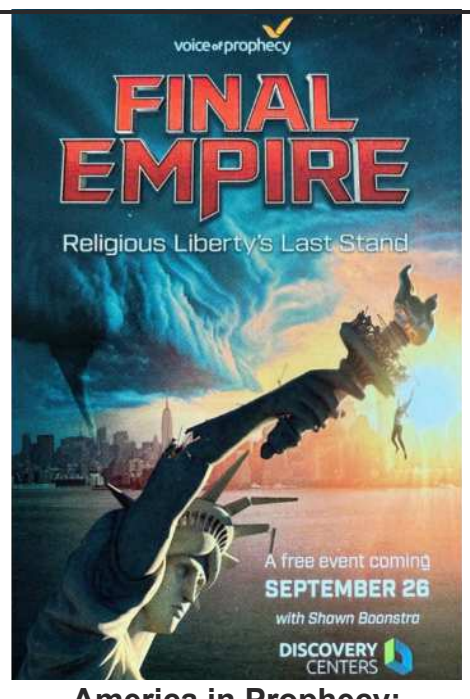

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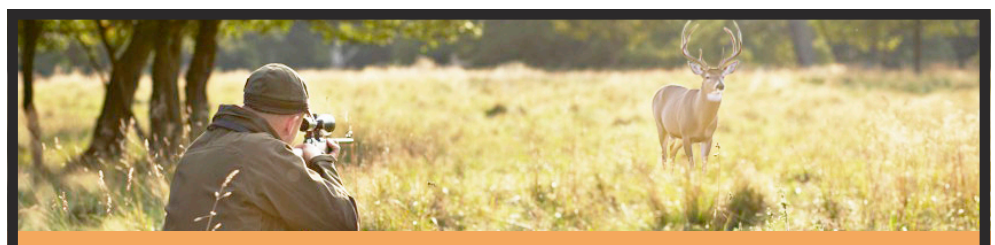

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VIEWPOINT

How to decrease buggy accidents in our communities

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

It happens over and over, an Amish buggy is hit by a car or truck and severe injuries happen to thos in the buggy. Just last week the scene was Clare County, which by the way has had a half dozen such accidents in the last few years. It's a tragedy when it happens and as communities in Michigan we have to do more to prevent such accidents.

Here's my take on why Michigan is seeing so many accidents involving Amish buggies—and what we can do to reduce them:

What's Driving the Increase in Buggy Collisions?

1. Inherent Road Vulnerabilities

Slow speed + limited visibility: Amish buggies typically travel at only about 5–8 mph—far slower than motor vehicles—which creates dangerous mismatches when drivers misjudge their speed or distance, especially on rural roads with curves and hills.

Poor nighttime visibility: While safety triangles are required by Michigan law, many buggies lack effective lighting—making them hard to see in low-light areas.

Minimal protection: Buggies offer no crash protection—no seat belts, airbags, or crash-resistant structure—making collisions especially devastating.

2. Driver Awareness & Behavior

Driver distraction or impairment: Many of these crashes result from inattentive or impaired driving. In one crash that claimed an 8-year-old's life, the driver was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence.

Unfamiliarity with buggy laws: Non-Amish drivers often don't realize that horse-drawn buggies are legally categorized as "pedestrians" on Michigan roads, which affects how traffic laws should be approached.

What We Can Do to Prevent These Tragic Crashes

A. Improve Visibility & Buggy Standards

Boost lighting requirements: Equip buggies with bright front and rear lights, reflectors, blinking lights, and reflective tape. Promote use of high-visibility material where possible.

Ensure bumper reflectors & triangles: Encourage adherence to existing safety-triangle laws and enhance awareness.

B. Enhance Roadway Infrastructure & Signage

Add dedicated buggy lanes or wide shoulders: Roads through Amish areas could be redesigned to include safe zones for buggies to travel. This is a great idea, but probably impractical do to costs.

Install warning signs and reduced-speed zones: Especially near Amish schools and intersections used frequently by buggies. This can and should be done at very little expense. We simply do not have enough buggy warning signs.

C. Promote Education & Community Outreach

Driver awareness campaigns: Billboards, gas-pump screens, radio spots, and even social media can remind motorists to watch for buggies and slow down. Again we need more awareness and especially billboards would help provide that.

D. Expand Funding & Pilot Programs

Statewide grants and local initiatives: The $70,000 grant to Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph counties is a solid start—targeting a 15 % crash reduction through outreach, enforcement, and infrastructure improvements. It would be nice for the state to provide the same type of grant to other heavily populated Amish areas, such as Clare County.

The recurring tragedy of buggy-car collisions in Michigan's Amish-populated regions is a complex intersection of culture, infrastructure, regulation, and road habits. It is clear, though, that better visibility, stronger community education, thoughtful road design, and legislative support can dramatically lower risks.

By honoring Amish traditions while prioritizing safety, we can protect some of Michigan's most vulnerable road users and avoid heartbreaking losses.

I'm very upset that practically every week I read about another buggy accident. We can do better Michiganders.

OBITUARIES

Robert Newton Stover

Robert Newton Stover, 90 of Decatur, was born on Oct. 24, 1934, in Decatur, the son of William (Byron) and Pauline (Price) Stover. Robert passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, at Centrica Rose Arbor Place, Oshtemo Township.

On Nov. 26, 1955, Bob, as he was known by all, was united in marriage with Gladys Urick and she survives along with their two daughters, Cathy (David) Wood of Grand Rapids, and Laurie Stover of Portage. He is also survived by a granddaughter, Amy Wood of Canton, Michigan; and his brother, Bill (Joyce) Stover of Paw Paw, Michigan. He will also be missed by his beloved dog, Annie, and his beloved cat, Willow.

Bob was preceded in passing by both parents and two sisters, Patricia Cottrell and Joyce Vliek.

Bob was a self-employed construction worker and farmer. He loved tinkering with his tractors, trucks and hit-and-miss engines. You could also find him doing wood carving, whittling or drawing to relax. One of his favorite things to do with Gladys was to jump in the car on Sundays and drive the countryside looking for treasures along the way.

As to Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place and no service will be held. The Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford, is assisting the family with arrangements. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at: http://www.calvin-leonardfh.com.

Helen Ruth Mills

Helen Ruth Mills, 92, of Lawton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at White Oaks Assisted Living, Lawton. She was born Feb. 18, 1933, in Paw Paw, Michigan, the daughter of Gilbert LeRoy Shank and Blanche Marie (Scott) Shank.

Helen was known for her welcoming spirit and kindness toward others. She was a devoted member of St Paul's United Methodist Church and East Van Buren County Seniors. Helen was employed at the Upjohn Company for a total of 27 years. She enjoyed reading, cooking and sewing. Above all else, Helen adored her family and will be deeply missed.

On Sept. 1, 1951, at Almena United Methodist Church, she married the love of her life, Richard Lee Mills, who preceded her in passing on Dec. 17, 2023.

She is survived by her four sons, Thomas LeRoy (Wendy) Mills, Steven Larry (Rebecca) Mills, Gregory Linton (Denise) Mills and Kevin Lee (Delores) Mills. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; grandson, Joshua Aaron Mills; and siblings, Betty Maxine Williams, Fred Charles Shank, Neva Marie Alton and Hazel Ann Scott.

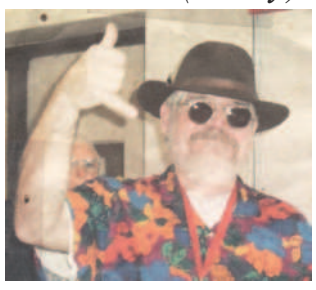
Family and friends are invited to visit on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 2 to 3 p.m. at St Paul's United Methodist Church, 63855 M-40 Highway, Lawton. A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m. with Pastors Sheila Baker and Ashlei Horn officiating.

There will be a luncheon afterwards.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Centrica Care Navigators or to Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.

Richard and Helen will be laid to rest at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI, at a later date.

Wallace (Wally) Keith Yerty



Wallace (Wally) Keith Yerty, 76, 10 days shy of his 77th birthday, passed away quietly on Thursday, Aug. 21, at home, after an extended illness.

Wally graduated from Hastings High School in 1966, spent two years at Ferris State University, and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1970. The draft was in full swing at that time and he drew No. 11, so rather than being drafted into the Army, he enlisted in the United States Navy, which was unusual because he didn't like the water! He became a Torpedoman's Mate on the USS Sierra and spent most of his tour in Orlando, FL, and Norfolk, VA.

He met his wife, Diane (Link) in June of 1970, and they were married six months later in December.

They had 54 years and eight months together, living in Flowerfield where their children were born and 41 years in Paw Paw.

Wally worked three jobs while getting two master's degrees at WMU post Navy. He taught and worked in various positions at Paw Paw School District (including video production for Paw Paw Public Access Channel 12). During this time, he also shot and edited videos for GrapeVine Video Productions, his own production company. He also worked at Nazareth College, WMU, Bronson Hospital, and Paw Paw District Library before retiring.

Wally enjoyed camping and he and his family visited several national parks, but he enjoyed the Tetons the most. They initially began in a tent, moved up to a pop-up camper, and finally to a furnished trailer. His last trip was to the West Coast visiting his children and was a fantastic finale for him.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Angela Michele; brother, Donald; sister, Barbara; his parents; and son-in-law, Hendrik.

Survivors include his wife, Diane; daughter, Jennifer (Bobby); son, Ryan (Joelle); brother, Mark (Sue); two nephews and a niece.

There will be no funeral as cremation has taken place. A memorial at a later date will be announced.

Memorials in his memory may be made to the Sierra Club or the National Parks.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Superintendents urge legislators to agree on K-12 funding

To the Editor:

As we begin the 2025 - 26 school year, we want to update you on an important issue that could impact our students and schools.

State law requires lawmakers to approve a K–12 public school funding budget by July 1 each year. Having a budget in place is important so that schools can plan and operate with certainty. Since the legal deadline has passed without elected officials reaching an agreement, there is a risk of a state government shutdown, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate.

One reason for the deadlock appears to be proposals to redirect money from the School Aid Fund, which voters were promised would be dedicated to K-12 education, to other priorities including road repairs. Many believe this violates the original intent of the system voters approved to provide fair funding for public schools. If lawmakers do not pass a budget, districts will miss out on their first scheduled state aid payment in October. For our schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

• Compensate staff who work directly with students

• Maintain class sizes and student support services

• Maintain bus operations and keep classrooms supplied

• Fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities

We cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is simple. Lawmakers should approve a K–12 budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their original purpose, which is educating our children. Please join us in urging our elected officials to reach a quick agreement and keep K–12 funding secure. Our students deserve a stable, fully funded school year.

Respectfully,
Dave Manson, VBISD
Ana Aleman-Putman, South Haven
Ben Bandfield, Lawton
Jeremy Davison, Paw Paw
Jim Wiseley, Gobles
Lynn Johnson, Bangor
Nick Blackmer, Hartford
Patrick Creagan, Decatur
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Rick Reo, Bloomingdale
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Lawton sophomore confident of strong volleyball season

Kiersten Chalupa gets ready to play the ball for Lawton volleyball last season.. She's a sophomore this year.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Kiersten Chalupa will be a sophomore at Lawton during the 2025-26 high school season and is looking to have even more success than she enjoyed as a sophomore in volleyball and softball.

Last year as a freshman "it went really well and was really fun," she said. "We all played together really well and we did really well too."

Lawton lost in district volleyball finals "but we had a good winning record over the year," Chalupa said. "We won a lot of games."

Chalupa played rightside hitter last year.

"I think I might play outside this year," she said. "I can play either. I like the outside."

The key to being a good outside hitter "is just seeing the court and being able to make smart choices in placing the ball and scoring points."

Chalupa was also set to serving and playing back row.

The key to being a good server, she said, "is finding other places where the passers on the other team are having trouble seeing off the hand and pressuring them into passing."

The key to being a good passer is seeing the ball and make good angles.

Chalupa said the Lawton players went to team camp in Grand Rapids and played some beach volleyball and had a lot of open gyms.

"We only lost one girl from last season so it should be pretty much the same team except there's a few younger girls coming up," she said. "It should be fun. I think we'll do well."

Chalupa played for the softball team which won its district.,

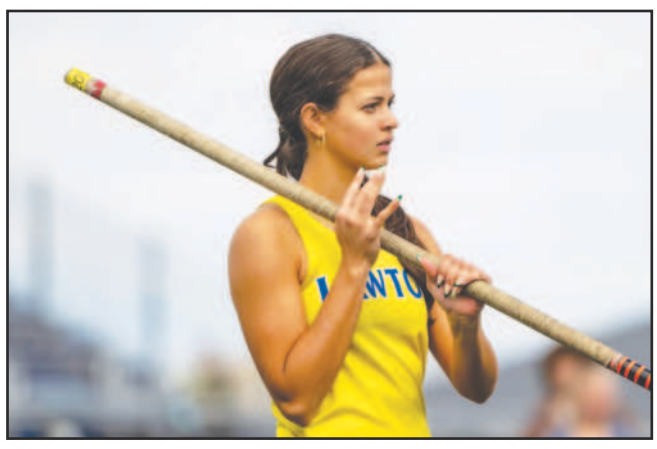
"I loved playing with all the girls and loved the coaches," she said. "I mainly played first base. It was my first season playing first base. I really liked it. I'm glad I had an opportunity to be there. (The key) is being able to stop balls and be ready for anything."

She had some hitting ups and downs during midseason but got bette by late in the year.

"In the district final game, I hit a line drive and it went through the center fielder's legs and wound up being a triple," Chalupa said

She played in two summer travel tournaments and participated in open fields.

Lawton athlete set for Kalamazoo College



Alissa McNally was a top notch pole vaulter for Lawton and is headed for Kalamazoo College.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Alissa McNally is coming off a solid sports season which featured an outstanding season in track and field.

She was a senior for Lawton and said among the highlights was qualifying for regionals. She was in the 4x100 relay which was fourth in regionals in 54.35 seconds. She was in the pole vault and had a season record of 8 feet 6 inches at the Paw Paw Lions Invitational and placed third at regionals.

Her personal record in the pole vault is 9-feet.

McNally had a long jump season record of 14-1.5.

McNally felt she met her expectations. Her junior year was probably her best in pole vaulting. She's been a pole vaulter four seasons.

"I started to want to run track. My friend Megan got me into pole vaulting. She graduated with me this year," McNally said.

McNally is going to Kalamazoo College for track and field,

"I like the whole atmosphere and the way the coach said he wanted to build his program and what he values in his athletes," McNally said. "Once I visited Kalamazoo College I was pretty set in that's where I wanted to go, like how the coach wanted to run the team. I wanted to be part of that team."

McNally plans on working on a business accounting major and a minor in Spanish.

McNally also played volleyball for Lawton last fall.

"I'll miss my teammates and my coaches," she said.

Lawton runners take second

Lawton runners included: from left to right: Andrew Williams, Noah Williams, Quincy Banfield, Preston Cornish.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — At Saturday's Fennville Invitational, held at the Fenn Valley Winery, the Lawton boys middle school team turned in a number of personal best performances allowing them to finish 2nd out of a field of 7 schools.

Top performers were; Noah Williams, 4th, 12:05.33,Quincy Bandfield, 7th, 12:44.63, Preston Cornish, 9th, 12:55.98,

Andrew Williams, 23rd, 14:02.59, Cooper Conklin, 35th, 15:14.62, Grayson Barber, 39th, 15:34.26

The Lawton varsity had runners at the 65th Fennville Open on Sept. 6.

Noah Withers was 52nd (21:03.03), Levi Brooks 82nd (23:33.13) for the Lawton boys and Anika Weurding was 28th (24:37.91), and Gabby Hayes was 70th (32:07.34).

Bangor boys was second at 116 behind first place Edwardsburg at 36. Carter Brouwer was 13th (18:40), Carson Pullins 16th (18:49.79), Trap Abbott 17th (18:54.82), and Kaiden Pearce 31st (19:37.53).

Jack Loomis was 42nd (19:59.97), Ismael Rein a 51st (20:45.89) and Anthony Franco-Rivera was 69th (22:18.08).

For the Bangor girls, Cielo Maldonado was 37th (25:54.63). Claire Heimsath was 53rd (28:19.53), Isabel Martin Hernandez was 61st (29:51.3)

Paw Paw athlete excited for college future

Former Paw Paw standout AJ Rickli is now at Wayne State University.

By John Raffel
Corrrespondent

PAW PAW — AJ Rickli has graduated from Paw Paw after an outstanding high school sports career and is looking forward to a new challenge on the college ranks.

Rickli was slated to head for Wayne State University and embark on a women's collegiate basketball career.

She was a four-year letterwinner for coaches Dan Thornton and Ernie Ramirez and helped the Red Wolves to a district title by averaging 22 points, 18 rebounds and four assists per game.

Rickli received First Team All-State recognition in 2025 from the Michigan Sports Writers and was a Miss Basketball Finalist and earned Second Team Division 2 All-State honors from the Detroit News each of her last two years.

The Wayne State basketball web page notes that Rickli was named to the 2025 BCAM's Best for Division 2 and is the all-time leading scorer at PPHS. She had 42 points in a February 2025 win over Buchanan, while also getting 27 rebounds and was a three-year basketball team captain ... earning seven additional letters at PPHS (three in volleyball and four in track and field).

The volleyball team this fall will miss Rickli as she served two years as a volleyball team captain at Paw Paw. In the spring, she finished fourth at the 2025 MHSAA Division 2 regional track meet with a personal-best throw in the shot put of 36-3, a highlight of her season.

"I knew going to state was on the line so I knew I had to throw (the shot) hard and harder," she said.

Rickli went to the state in the shot put for the first time,

During the summer "I've been working out a lot, and enjoying the last few days I get to spend at home before moving away."

She's ready to make the jump to college basketball. Rickli said she worked during the summer "a lot on my conditioning and being able to play at multiple positions all the time.

"I want to the Wayne State open gyms and played with different girls from around Detroit."

Former Mattawan standout shines at Ferris

Jalen Jones is a senior defensive back for Ferris.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BIG RAPIDS — Jalen Jones played his high school football at Mattawan and has been having plenty success at Ferris.

The No. 1-ranked NCAA Division II school opened the season on Aug. 28 with a 34-17 win over No. 9-ranked Pittsburg State of Kansas.

Jones, a senior defensive back, had a key interception for Ferris and also three total tackles.

"The coaches put us in the positions and had a great game plan coming into the game," Jones said. "All we had to do was execute it. I think overall we did it for the most part other than just a few miscues. Overall it was a good performance. It's a great start to a great season.

"I'm just trying to capitalize every single week so I'm looking forward to doing a little bit next week, just clean up on the mistakes and keep going."

"Jalen has been a super player for us," Ferris State coach Tony Annese said. "He came to us as a walk-on and now is one of our best players. It's perseverance and determination. I'm proud of him."

It was a 2-0 start for Ferris which has won three of the last four NCAA Division II national titles.

"It sets us off to a great start to the season," Jones said. "Going into this next week, it shows us what we're capable of and shows us what we need to clean up. As long as we clean up these mistakes, we're going to get better and better."

The Ferris website bio on Jone points out he was a standout defensive back at Mattawan High School and earned numerous varsity letters. He was a multi-year performer and letterwinner on the prep level named to the Kalamazoo Gazette Football Dream Team. He played quarterback on the offensive side of the ball and was also an all-conference basketball selection. He was a dual-threat signal caller with the ability to make big plays and was a talented athlete."

Ferris on Sept. 6 won on the road, 64-6 at Lake Erie (Ohio).

South Haven football falls to Holland

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven is 0-2 after a 26-23 football loss to Holland on Friday.

Jacob Bosman had seven tackles and Grayson Knox had eight. Quin Hayes had 93 yards rushing and Jacob Bosma had 61 with a touchdown. Ryker Roland and Rylan Jenks also rans for TDs. Jenks was 8-of-15 in passing for 130 yards.

Hayes and Slazak combined for 98 yards in pass receiving.

"We played well. Good effort and attitude," coach Mark Eddy said. "We were able to stay focused too and battle and had the chance to tie and force overtime. We need to keep sharpening our sword to improve."

South Haven will be at Coloma on Friday.

Tennis

Paw Paw opened Wolverine Conference play last week with a trip to Niles. Second Singles Eric Fitchpatrick took the early lead finishing his match 6-0, 6-0 and the Red Wolves continued from then on out finishing the night with an 8-0 sweep.Singles:No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Stephen Applewhite, Niles, 6-2 , 6-1.No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Collin Brown, Niles, 6-0 , 6-0/No. 3 - Zach Mahan, Paw Paw def. Sam Lundberg, Niles, 6-1 , 6-1/No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Ryker Leaverton, Niles, 6-2 , 6-4.Doubles:No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Logan Paluzzi, Niles - Joshua Becraft, Niles, 6-2 , 6-0.No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Matthew Richards, Niles - Shawn Atkins, Niles, 6-1 , 7-5 .No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Abe Knight, Niles - Carson Pugh, Niles, 6-3 , 6-1/No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Gavin Dandurand, Niles - Eli Chism, Niles, 6-1 , 6-1 .

GIRLS GOLF

Tuesday (Sept. 2) South Haven was one of three SW Michigan teams invited to play in the Tullymore Invitational, hosted by Big Rapids.

"Tullymore is a top-flight resort course near Stanwood, Michigan and is considered one of the most difficult courses in Michigan," South Haven coach Barry Shanley said. "There were 20 teams playing, most of them bigger school districts, and although we didn't play our best, we still finished 9th.

"Scores were very high. Sophomore Lyne Badenhorst shot a 105 to lead the team. Faith Spies and Chloe Vanlandingham both shot 111 and fellow by fellow senior Gwen Meyer 114.

"It is always an honor to be invited to compete in this incredibly well-organized event. It is a real treat for the players and their parents."

Mattawan falls to Lowell

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's football team lost 49-20 to Lowell on Sept 6.

Lowell had quarter leads of 21-7, 27-14, 42-14 and had a 7-6 scoring edge in the fourth quarter.

Mattawan scored in the first quarter on Nolan Jominy's 46-yard pass completions to Nick DeYoung. In the second quart, Jiminey passed 5 yards to Patrick Dougherty. Jominey had a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

For Mattawan, Patrick Dougherty netted 69 yards on three carries. Devin Purcell had 17 yard on eight tries.

Jominy passed seven times for 157 yards and two touchdowns. De Young rushed for 64 yards on two carries Patrick Dougherty had 58 yards on four tries. Brady Mickelson had one carry for 35 yards.

Mattawan, 0-2, plays at Portage Northern on Sept. 12.

Muskegon Heights 38, Lawrence 6

Lawrence fell to 0-2 with this loss on Friday.

"We played better as a team," coach Steve Raklovits said. "We had great special teams play."

There was a kickoff return for a touchdown by Alex Gardiner. Sophomore quarterback Jake Theragene was 7-of-10 in passing for 88 yards.

"We are improving," Raklovits said.

Bangor football wins, Bloomingdale falls

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Ryan Casey's football team at Bangor journeyed to Battle Creek St. Philip Catholic Central and came away with a 50-0 win to open the season on Aug. 28

Terrence Payne played both quarterback and middle linebacker for Bangor on Thursday night. He had two interceptions returned for a touchdown and a rushing touchdown as quarterback.

Aaron Dominguez had two rushing touchdowns

along with Wyatt Schneider adding two rushing touchdowns of his own.

"Jayden Ulam had a major impact on both the defensive line and on special teams," Casey said. "With his speed and strength he was hard to handle. The team did a great job

of playing with a lot of energy which is what led the team

to creating four turnovers on the night, including the two interceptions."

Bangor played at Bloomingdale High last Friday night and won 20-0. Bangor is 2-0 and plays at New Buffalo on Sept. 12.

Bloomingdale football

BLOOMINGDALE — The Bloomingdale varsity football team battled hard Friday night Aug. 29 but came up short against the Eau Claire Beavers, falling 28–8.

Senior standout Patrick Robinson led the way for Bloomingdale on both sides of the ball. Robinson rushed 12 times for 117 yards, including a touchdown run, and electrified the crowd with a 70-yard kickoff return. Defensively, he was just as impactful, racking up 11 tackles.

Mavrick Atkinson provided balance in the backfield with 35 yards on seven carries and added one reception for six yards. He also contributed four tackles on defense. Macyn Bishop chipped in with 27 rushing yards on 10 carries and made four tackles.

On defense, Collin Lewis anchored the unit with seven tackles, including one for a loss, while Kody Huff added a rush attempt for four yards and a tackle.

Bloomingdale lost 20-0 to Bangor on Sept. 5 and is now 0-2. The next game is at Fennville on Sept. 12

Paw Paw soccer wins 2-1

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The boys soccer team faced off Monday night vs. No. 8 ranked Potter's House. JV started the night out strong with a 1-0 win. Ethan Leaser scored assisted by Colby Barnett. Nate Klein and Ethan Leaser combined for the shutout in goal.

Varsity continued the strong night with a 2-1 win. Caleb Kenyon scored a volley off his backside from a perfect cross from Grant Sholander early in the half. The offense controlled the ball and had several quality chances but the opposing goalie made several great saves. The game went to half tied 1-1. The Wolves pressed the attack in the second half and got on the board as Enzo Tavela cut past the defenders before getting tripped in the box for a pk. Enzo stepped up and buried the shot lower right. The boys finished the night with a 2-1 win.

"Daniel Diaz, Santiago Nava and Lex Lounsbury combined all night to dominate the middle of the field," Mike Lounsbury said. "The defense held strong all night led by birthday boy Captain Isaac Heffner."

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, Deborah Lynn Rife (date of birth) 6/22/1956, who lived at 27493 8th Ave Gobles, MI 49055, Gobles Michigan, died July 16th, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Charles Stephen Rife and Deborah Lynn Rife Trust dated, March 16th,2012, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Colton Rife Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
September 8, 2025
Successor Trustee
Colton Rife
27493 8th Ave
Gobles, MI 49055,
517-215-1724

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1137-DE
Judge Metzger
Estate of BRUCE E. MCDONALD, deceased, Date of birth October 18, 1940
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Bruce E. McDonald, died July 19, 2025 (7/19/2025).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Timothy McDonald personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
September 8,2025
Attorney
Albert W. Laaksonen, II
P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative
Timothy McDonald
92312 Gravel Lake Drive
Lawton, MI 49065
269-366-8854

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1114-DE
Judge Metzger
Estate of STEVEN RAY GILLESPIE, deceased, Date of birth February 10,1948
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Steven Ray Gillespie, died May 10,2025 (5/10/2025).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tonia J. Coburn personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
September 8,2025
Attorney
William B. Millard P39054
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
269-343-2106
Personal Representative
Tonia J. Coburn
736 East hickory Road
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
269-365-8985

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1099-DE
Judge Susan Metzger
Estate of DAVID ALAN CHASE, deceased, Date of birth December 21,1948
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, David Alan Chase, died January 11,2018 (1/11/2018).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Larry L. Chase personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
September 9,2025
Attorney
William B. Millard P39054
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
269-343-2106
Personal Representative
Larry L. Chase
35575 CR 65
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
269-657-6328

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: SARA W. NISBET; Atty: BUTZEL LONG SOUTH HAVEN - BUTZEL LONG SOUTH HAVEN; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL CREDITORS: The Decedent, SARA W. NISBET (A/K/A SARA FRANCIS NISBET), whose last known address was 220 Michigan Ave., South Haven, MI 49090, died August 08, 2025. There is no Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to KATHY N. FRENCH, TRUSTEE OF THE CARL C. NISBET AND SARA W. NISBET TRUST DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2014, within four months after the date of this publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: September 2, 2025 KATHY N. FRENCH, TRUSTEE OF THE CARL C. NISBET AND SARA W. NISBET TRUST DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090
(09-11)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Brittany Grzybowski; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 24-002140-7; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 09, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Brittany Grzybowski and Zack Grzybowski and Melissa Middleton Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 16, 2021 Recorded on November 30, 2021, Liber 1729, on Page 795, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two and 29/100 Dollars ($232,232.29)
Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lots 7 and 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GRAND JUNCTION, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 31 of Plats, Page 287, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 03761 Columbia St, Grand Junction, MI 49056
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1571724
(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James A. Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 25-011389; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
LOT 7, SPRINGDALE MANOR, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS, PAGE 27, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
57880 Springdale Dr, Hartford, Michigan 49057
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: September 4, 2025
File No. 25-010366
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Elisa Solis; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-002484-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 02, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Elisa Solis and Horton Allen Stanfill, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Union Home Mortgage Corp. Date of mortgage: June 17, 2019 Recorded on June 27, 2019, Liber 1685, on Page 936, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One and 69/100 Dollars ($106,551.69) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 and 4 in Block F in Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 115 E Bronson St, Decatur, MI 49045
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1570986
(09-04)(09-25)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Roger Miller; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 525440F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Roger Miller, Married Man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation Date of Mortgage: June 2, 2023 Date of Mortgage Recording: June 16, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $225,620.82
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Waverly, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the East 1/4 post of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 14 West, and running thence with bearings referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Surveys on Page 50, South 89 degrees 58 minutes 56 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of the East 1/2 of said Section 963.33 feet; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 43 seconds West 328.90 feet; thence South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 130.09 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds West 149.97 feet; thcncc South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 580.40 feet to the Westerly right of way of M-40 Highway; thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2241.83 feet, along said Westerly right of way to the far end of a chord which bears North 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds East 149.97 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 580.40 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 46644 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1570126
(08-28)(09-18)

BCNS # 259584/Reference # Cascade / Irwin_13422.0074
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the Mortgagor(s): Christine Irwin and Paul Irwin, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Southwest Stage Funding, LLC dba Cascade Financial Services Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 29, 2019 in Liber 1687, Page(s) 232, et. seq., with a Construction Conversion Agreement, dated November 1, 2019 and recorded on November 13, 2019 in Liber 1692, Page 32, et. seq.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Southwest Stage Funding, LLC (d/b/a Cascade Financial Services) Date of Assignment: August 6, 2025 Date of Assignment Recording: August 7, 2025 Amount claimed due on date of Notice: $140,769.27, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by Debtors to Mortgagee together with interest at 9.84 percent per annum. Description of Mortgaged Premises:
LAND SITUATED IN CITY OF HARTFORD, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT FOUND BY COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH QUARTER POST OF SECTION 16, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, AND RUNNING THENCE WITH BEARINGS REFERENCED TO THE WEST LINE OF ALLEN HUNTLEY AND STICKNEY'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF HARTFORD, AS A MERIDIAN, EAST 599.32 FEET, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE SOUTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID SUBDIVISION 757.62 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 390.93 FEET, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST 143.77 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF PLEASANT STREET, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A RADIUS OF 102.51 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 60 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 75.57 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID RAILROAD, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 2808.32 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 30 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST 418.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING which also includes any interest Cascade may have in the 2020 Clayton Mobile Home, Serial Number WK1108275INAB The property is more commonly known as: 210 Pleasant Street, Hartford, Michigan 49057-1235. The redemption period shall be six (6) months unless the property is established to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or fifteen (15) days from the date the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(b) was posted and mailed, or unless under MCL 600.3240(11), prior to the foreclosure sale the borrower follows the procedure set forth in that section to establish the presumption that the property is used for Agricultural purposes, in which case the redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of the sale.
Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under MCL 600.3201 et. seq., the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of notice: August 20, 2025 By: Gary D. Popovits (P63861) Pezzetti, Vermetten, Popovits & Umulis, P.C., Attorneys for Mortgagee, 600 E. Front Street, Suite 102 - P.O. Box 5817, Traverse City, Michigan 49696-5817; (231) 929-3450 File No.: 13422.0074 Ad #2595
(8/28)(9/18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Willard Rayborn; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 25-010576; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Willard Rayborn and Cheryl Ann Rayborn, husband and wife, to Horizon Bank, FSB, Mortgagee, dated December 21, 2004 and recorded December 29, 2004 in Liber 1428, Page 516 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy and 75/100 Dollars ($45,170.75).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Breedsville, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 6, except the West 28.8 feet thereof, also Except the East 164.9 feet of said lot, Block

Continues on page 9

Bloomingdale cross coach set for huge season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BLOOMINGDALE — Alan Bobalik has had quite a career as Bloomingdale High School boys and girls varsity cross country

"This will be my 11th year as the head coach," Bobolik said. "In the 11 years the team has grown from just a few runners to consistently fielding deep and competitive teams in the Southwest 10 Conference. There have been a total of 10 conference championships between the boys and the girls, 2 girls regional championships, and several state qualifying individuals and all-state runners.

"The biggest highlight is watching the kids mature as leaders and as people. My favorite part of every season is senior night when the runners and parents are celebrated for all that they have accomplished and contributed to the program during their time in high school."

Bobolik added:

The best part of coaching is the opportunity to have an additional positive impact on the students. Getting to know the students on a deeper level, seeing just how tough they are physically and mentally over the course of the season is inspirational to me. I love seeing how runners challenge and support each other, not just their teammates but also their competitors. I think cross country is truly a unique sport in that regard.

"I haven't noticed a huge change in coaching. The runners will respond to energy and positivity and I try to supply that every day. I have been blessed to have great captains and leaders each year who have helped create a welcoming culture for runners of all abilities."

Bloomingdale competed in the Bridgman Invitational on Aug. 19. Bloomingdale's boys were eighth among nine teams and the girls were sixth.

For the boys, James Odell was 25th (21:25.7) and Zach Danes 26th (21:27.1). Maria Ramirez was 33rd for the girls (28:21.0) and Janet Andrade 34th (28:26.5.)

South Haven golfers are third

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven girls had a conference jamboree Friday and hosted another today.

Friday

South Haven finished third out of six teams in a close battle. "We missed winning the whole thing by six strokes," coach Barry Shanley sad.

The event was at Blossom Trails in Benton Harbor hosted by Michigan Lutheran.

Dowagiac was first with a 209. Cassopolis 212, South Haven 214. Michigan Lutheran 241, Berrien Springs 244. Niles Brandywine 304.

Monday

"At HawksHead in South Haven, playing without our No. 2 player, the home team rallied to win by one stroke," Shanley said. "We shot a 197. Defending state champion Kalamazoo Christian shot one stroke higher with a 198 as did Cassopolis to tie for second. Other team scores were Dowagiac 205, Michigan Lutheran 242, Berrien Springs 263 and Niles Brandywine 281.

Chloe Vanlandingham of South Haven was tournament medalist with a 42 to lead the way. Gwen Meyer carded a 48 and Faith Spies a 49. All three made the top 10 for the second straight event.

"Aubrey Hodgman was our fourth score with a 58. Lyne Badenhorst returns Wednesday when we play in another conference jamboree hosted by Niles Brandywine at Knollwood Country Club in Northern Indiana," Shanley said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 8

15, of the original plat of Breedsville, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County.
50 W Main St, Breedsville, Michigan 49027
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: August 28, 2025
File No. 25-010576
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(08-28)(09-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Adriana Ramirez; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 524613F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Adriana Ramirez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): SELENE FINANCE LP
Date of Mortgage: June 20, 2024
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 9, 2024
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $187,629.57
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: That part of Section 25, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, City of Gobles, Van Buren County, described as: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of Lot 13, Block 6, of the original Plat of the City of Gobles according to the Plat thereof; thence North 88 degrees 22 minutes 57 seconds West 132.00 feet along the South line of Lot 13, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 88 degrees 18 minutes 17 seconds West 45.00 feet along
the South line of Lot 14, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 00 degrees 48 minutes 27 seconds East 84.82 feet; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 45.00 feet
to the East line of Lot 11, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 132.00 feet along the North line of the South 19.00
feet of lot 12, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 00 degrees 48 minutes 33 seconds West 84.98 feet along the East line of Lots 12 and 13, Block 6 of said
Plat to the point of beginning
Common street address (if any): 202 W Exchange St, Gobles, MI 49055-9315
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1570631

(08-28)(09-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: MTCT46 LLC; Atty: KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO - KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO; 1st Pub: 8/21/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF LIEN AGAINST CONDOMINIUM UNIT IN OLD HARBOR VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the certain Lien Against Condominium Unit in Old Harbor Village Condominium ("Lien") will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises (as defined below) at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than ninety (90) days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Old Harbor Village Condominium Association recorded the aforementioned Lien, dated December 9, 2024, against the premises owned by MTCT46 LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, which address is 515 Williams Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 ("Owner"), which premises are a Unit in the Old Harbor Village Condominium. The Lien was recorded on December 9, 2024, in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, at Liber 1772, Page 974. As of August 21, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Lien is the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Six and 70/100 Dollars ($9,376.70), including interest and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue and which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Condominium Bylaws and under Section 108 of the Michigan Condominium Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Lien will be foreclosed by sale of the premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Van Buren County Courthouse, which address is 212 East Paw Paw Street, 2nd Floor, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, State of Michigan, on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The premises subject to the Lien is situated in the City of South Haven, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: Unit 13, Old Harbor Village Condominium, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 813, Page 616, as amended, in the Office of the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, and designated as Van Buren County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 17, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed, and amendments thereto, and described in Act 59 of Public Acts of 1978 as amended.
Parcel Address: 515 Williams Street, Unit 13, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Parcel Tax ID: 80-53-775-006-30 If the premises is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises is abandoned, in which case the redemption period is one (1) month. If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Owner and any other person liable on the Lien will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the foreclosure sale or to the Lien holder for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Dated: August 21, 2025 LIEN HOLDER: Old Harbor Village Condominium Association 515 Williams Street, P.O. Box 46 South Haven, Michigan 49090 Attorneys for the Old Harbor Village Condominium Association: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. Attention: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 49002 (269) 324-3000

(08-21)(09-11)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James F Molnar; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/21/2025; Atty File #: 22-003040-3; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): James F. Molnar and Barbara L. Molnar, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank s/b/m TCF National Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank Shoreline f/k/a Shoreline Bank Date of mortgage: July 29, 1998 Recorded on August 4, 1998, Liber 1187, on Page 843, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen and 88/100 Dollars ($32,916.88) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: The East 210 feet of the North 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, except the South 30 feet thereof. Commonly known as 520 N Van Buren St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank s/b/m TCF National Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank Shoreline f/k/a Shoreline Bank Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1570089

(08-21)(09-11)

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan has renewed the franchise agreement with DirecTV. This renewal will go into effect four weeks after the publication of this notice. A copy in full of the franchise agreement renewal is on file and available for public inspection at the Village of Mattawan Office located at the address below.

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128 • offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that **The Shed Self Storage,** phone **(269) 200-2156**, located at **72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065** will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at **www.StorageAuctions.com.** Auction will close on or after **Wednesday September 24, 2025 at 10:00 am.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold: **William Stayner**

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that a Public Hearing/Regular Council meeting will be held by the Village of Decatur's Village Council on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur Village Hall located at 114 North Phelps Street within the Village.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing include, in brief, the following:**

1. Request to adopt the Single-Lot Special Assessment Ordinance.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested person concerning the application may contact the Village Clerk 114 N Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49079, at any time during regular business hours up to 12:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing and will further be received by the Village Council at the time of said hearing.

The Village of Decatur will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Village Clerk.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR VILLAGE COUNCIL

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk
Decatur Village Hall
114 North Phelps St.
Decatur, MI 49045

For more information or to place an ad Call (269) 657-5080 BEFORE MONDAY AT 5PM

BID ANNOUNCEMENT
- UPDATE -

Bid information for previously published Bid Pack 2B – Maintenance & Transportation Building

has been updated with Addenda and the Bid Due Date & Opening:

Sealed bids are now due Friday, September 19, 2025 at 1:00pm EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071 (ATTN Pam Stermer, CFO)

There will be a public bid opening of submitted sealed bids immediately following.

Late bids will not be considered.

Contact Amanda Peters for access to bidders' instructions, plans, specifications & addenda:

apeters@avbinc.com 269-816-4418

All bidders must supply a bid bond, a notarized statement of familiar relationship & other

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• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

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BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

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• HOUSING •

WANTED IN SOUTH HAVEN Rental for winter months. Oct 2025 thru April 30, 2026. 3 bedrooms. 240-215-5081.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

Semilla launches worship services

A new and inspiring collaboration has been developed between the Hartford United Methodist Church and Semilla United Methodist Church, as the two build a new community of faith in 425 E. Main St., Hartford. Pastor Miriam Peralta, shown at left, will share the pastoral duties at Semilla UMC with her husband, Pastor Cesar Garcia, shown at right. Pastor Doug Tipken, of Hartford United Methodist Church, is shown in center. Courtesy photo

HARTFORD – A new and inspiring collaboration has been developed between the Hartford United Methodist Church and Semilla United Methodist Church, according to an announcement.

"Together, we're building a new community of faith in 425 E. Main St., Hartford, guided by our mission to bring hope to every heart and purpose to every life. We are

also incredibly grateful to Harford UMC for welcoming us and providing a space where God's work can be carried out, said Pastor Miriam Peralta, who will share the pastoral duties at Semilla UMC with her husband, Pastor Cesar Garcia.

The first service was held on Aug. 10 at 11:30 a.m., "a truly special event filled with a spirit of community and fellowship. We are especially excited that our services are bilingual, allowing us to welcome every member of our community, regardless of language," said Pastor Peralta de Garcia.

In addition to the weekly services, starting in September, Semilla United Methodist Church will offer practical classes for Semilla Centro:

• Sewing Classes: Learn a useful and creative skill.

• Basic English Classes for Adults: Improve your language skills in a supportive environment.

Pastor Miriam Peralta de Garcia and Pastor Cesar Garcia extend a warm invitation for those to join them and become part of the growing family. "Whether you have visited us before or this is your first time, whether you speak Spanish or English, we look forward to welcoming you to our next service or maybe you would like to volunteer in our ministry. Let us know!" said Pastor Peralta de Garcia

For more information visit: www.semillacentro.org.

History talk - Frontier Michigan and its Hidden Histories planned

LAWRENCE - The public is invited to attend the history talk, Frontier Michigan and its Hidden Histories, by Anna-Lisa Cox, at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Doors open at 5 p.m. with the program at 5:30 p.m. Light

Refreshments will be served.

Cox, an award-winning American historian, is a Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American research. She is the author of two books, The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America's Forgotten Black Pioneers and the Struggle for Equality and A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith. Her books are available for checkout at VBDL, Lawrence.

The program is sponsored by the Van Buren District Library, Lawrence, and Friends

of the Lawrence Library.

For information about this or any other program, call VBDL, Lawrence Library, at (269) 674-3200.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur, with branches in Bangor,

Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

Paw Paw Village Players to hold second annual dinner program

PAW PAW - Paw Paw Village Players will hold the second annual dinner program, "Play with your Food," Sept. 18, at La Cantina Italian restaurant, Paw Paw.

This year, Paw Paw Village Players will throw in a little more excitement as attendees will be transported back to the Roaring 20s, and at some time during their meal, there will be a commotion that attendees won't be able to ignore. Those attending will be able to spend some time figuring out who the culprit (or culprits) is and thereby solve the mystery (murder).

The fun takes place in the lower dining room of La Cantina Italian restaurant on Michigan Avenue. Doors open at 5 p.m. Period dress would add to the fun but is not a requirement for anyone.

The menu is still in development but promises to be a culinary delight that La Cantina is so well known for. Check the website at ppvp.org for updates. Tickets for $35 are available on the website, which includes dinner with the fixings and a beverage. A cash bar will be available.

Those wanting a more active role in the action, are asked to contact Village Players by email at: villageplayers@ppvp.org. Also, stay tuned for audition information for the Village Players' annual production of A Christmas Carol.

Gobles football improves to 2-0

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles moved to 2-0 after overpowering Eau Claire 60-26 behind a relentless rushing attack and a defense that forced three turnovers.

The Tigers racked up 510 total yards, with 308 coming on the ground. Freshman running back Case Lord led the charge, carrying 15 times for 123 yards and four touchdowns. Steven Juarez added 100 yards rushing, one touchdown, and three two-point conversions, while also throwing for 97 yards and a score.

Nathan Ray chipped in with a rushing touchdown, and Hunter Piper provided a spark through the air with a 49-yard touchdown reception.

"Defensively, Gobles made big plays at key moments," coach Greg Eichler said. "Devin Doorlag delivered the highlight of the night with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown. Piper also had an interception, while Juarez and Ray combined for three sacks and multiple tackles for loss.

"While Eau Claire was able to make some plays through the air, the defense limited Eau Claire to just 39 rushing yards on the night. Despite eight penalties, the Tigers controlled the game from start to finish, converting six of eight two-point attempts and picking up 25 first downs."

Eicher noted that Eau Claire moved the ball through the air with 278 passing yards, but Gobles' ability to run the football and finish drives proved too much to overcome. "The special teams also had a great night as the kickoff team recovered 3 onside kicks. Piper was able to recover 2 of those, while Vinnie Romano recovered the other," Eichler said. "With the win, Gobles now sets their sights on a big matchup with Marcellus."

Lawrence competes at invitational

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Tigers competed at the Teske Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 4, hosted by the Hartford Green Wolves.

"This was a special day for the Tigers as it marked the first time in a number or years that the boys have been able to field a team of 5 runners and were scored as so at the meet," coach Rodney Sturgis said.

For the boys' team, five runners completed: Adrian Valareo – 23:50.33 Walter Waite – 29:28.94 Rendyn Alfieri – 21:56.35 Colton Anders – 25:06.48 Evan Broyles – 21:41.99

On the girls' side, two runners represented Lawrence: Aurora McQueen – 26:07.54 Jara Fernandez Gomez – 28:54.10

For the junior high boys, one runner represented Lawrence: Landon Marsh-Peek – 19:22.17

Coach Sturgis liked the team's effort after the race, saying:

"There was only one boy running Cross Country three years ago and to see that we have a team scoring at meets is encouraging and testament to the kids who have come out and worked to build this program. There is still work to do but I'm so proud of their commitment and effort."

Colton Anders also reflected on their race performance:

"It feels great to be around a whole team full of people all committed to the same goal of getting better everyday."

Next up for the Tigers is the first Southwest 10 Jamboree. September 10th, 2025

Paw Paw and Lawton football both suffer defeats

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's football team traveled to Kenowa Hills and lost 48-27.

Ben Miller did have a huge night despite the loss. Miller had 184 yards rushing on 25 carries with two TDs and 19 yards receiving, while having four solo tackles, one assisted tackle, one sack, one tackle for loss, one knock down, one forced fumble, and two fumble recoveries (one for a defense, Silas Penning forced the fumble).

Ben Newell had two solo tackles, five assisted, one sack and two tackles for loss while Elias Sonnenburg had two solo tackles, one assisted, and a forced fumble.

Paw Paw will be home against Niles on Friday.

Ithaca 36, Lawton 7

LAWTON — Lawton's football team fell to 1-1 with a 36-7 loss against Ithaca on Friday night.

Ithaca led 8-0 after the first quarter 28-0 at halftime and 36-0 after the third.

Lawton scored in the third quarter on Brady Quick's 5-yard run. Quick passed for 15 yards and Dillon Carlson passed for 14. Leading rusher for Lawton was Greyson Burrous with 63 yards on 10 carries.

Lawson is 1-1 and will be home on Sept. 12 with Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic.

Paw Paw tennis team falls

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw hosted conference opponent Edwardsburg on Monda nd lost and jumped out to a early 2-0 lead with wins at 3rd Singles, 1st doubles, and 4th doubles.

The Red Wolves lost good matches at 1st and 2nd Singles, finished the night wins at 2nd and 3rd doubles and a 3 hour, 3rd set tiebreaker win by 4th Singles Braden Schultz. The team moves to 2-0 in conference and 5-1 overall. They are in action again tonight against Berrien Springs.

Paw Paw 6, Edwardsburg 2

Singles

No. 1 - Adam Redden, Edwardsburg def. Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw, 6-0 , 6-1.

No. 2 - Logan Summy, Edwardsburg def. Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw, 7-5 , 6-4.

No. 3 - Zach Mahan, Paw Paw def. Ethan Layman, Edwardsburg, 6-1 , 6-2.

No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Bryce Linton, Edwardsburg, 6-7 (5), 6-4 , 7-6 (3).

Doubles

No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Brandon Van Overberghe, Edwardsburg - Keston Mcguire, Edwardsburg, 6-0 , 6-1.

No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Kade Hoven, Edwardsburg - Xander Souchick, Edwardsburg, 6-0 , 6-0.

No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Reef Cuthbert, Edwardsburg - Zach Layman, Edwardsburg, 6-2 , 6-3.

No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Braden Farmer, Edwardsburg - Lincoln Freudenburg, Edwardsburg, 6-0 , 6-1.

Paw Paw hosted its 2nd tournament of the year with Brandywine, Kalamazoo Christian and Lansing Christian.

Team Results

1st Place - Paw Paw - 16 pts

2nd Place - Brandywine - 12 pts (tiebreaker 5-3 head to head with K-Christian)

3rd Place - Kalamazoo Christian - 12 pts

4th Place - Lansing Christian - 8 pts

Individual Results for Paw Paw

2nd Place - 1st Singles Terrance Fisher

1st Place - 1st Doubles Isaac Geffre/Anderson Farnquest

1st Place - 2nd Doubles - Simon Geffre/Ethan Groner

1st Place - 3th Doubles - Bryn Carlsen/Brevyn Wisneski

2nd Place - 4th Doubles - Jude Webster/Conner Esman

Lansing Christian School - 3, Paw Paw - 5,

Vs. Lansing Christian

Singles:

No. 1 - Stephen Gollapalli, Lansing Christian School def. Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw, 6-0 , 6-0.

No. 2 - Cole Sendow, Lansing Christian School def. Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw, 6-3 , 3-6 , 10-.

No. 3 - Brennan Sendow, Lansing Christian School def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 6-3 , 6-4.

No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Charlie Baker, Lansing Christian School, 6-3 , 6-2.

Doubles:

No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. JB Park, Lansing Christian School - Hudson Wells, Lansing Christian School, 6-0 , 6-0.

No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Caleb Klan, Lansing Christian School - Colin Hartzler, Lansing Christian School, 6-2 , 6-2.

No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Gavin Davidson, Lansing Christian School - Ben Vander Galien, Lansing Christian School, 6-0 , 4-6 , 10-2.

No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Stephen Ivkovich, Lansing Christian School - Eliseo Brown, Lansing Christian School, 6-0 , 6-2.

Vs. Kalamazoo Christian

Singles:

No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Luke De Jong, Kalamazoo Christian , 6-3 , 6-1.

No. 2 - Ian Riggs, Kalamazoo Christian def. Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw, 4-6 , 6-3 , 10-4.

No. 3 - Zach Mahan, Paw Paw def. Kyle Herder, Kalamazoo Christian , 7-5 , 2-6 , 10-6.

No. 4 - Grant Coon, Kalamazoo Christian def. Braden Schultz, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-1.

Doubles:

No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Brayden Bowman, Kalamazoo Christian - George Haan, Kalamazoo Christian, 6-3 , 6-4.

No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Levi Vander Moren , Kalamazoo Christian - Ryan Eicholtz , Kalamazoo Christian, 6-1 , 6-3.

No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Owen Vliestra, Kalamazoo Christian - Micha Koerner , Kalamazoo Christian, 6-2 , 6-2.

No. 4 - Sam Ekkens, Kalamazoo Christian - Kyle Motson, Kalamazoo Christian def. Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw, 6-3, 6-4.

Niles Brandywine - 2, Paw Paw - 6,

Singles:

No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Ryder Richard, Niles Brandywine, 1-6 , 7-6 (4), 10-8.

No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Blake Magyar, Niles Brandywine, 6-3 , 6-4.

No. 3 - Kyler Marshall, Niles Brandywine def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 6-4 , 5-7 , 10-6.

No. 4 - Malachi Gamble, Niles Brandywine def. Braden Schultz, Paw Paw, 7-6 (0), 6-4.

Doubles:

No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Brady Bosch, Niles Brandywine - Maddox carpenter, Niles Brandywine, 6-1 , 6-2.

No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Bryce Hood, Niles Brandywine - Hudson Aalfs, Niles Brandywine, 6-2 , 6-2.

No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. jordan Bryant, Niles Brandywine - Nolan shaffer, Niles Brandywine, 7-5 , 6-2.

No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Lucas Gill, Niles Brandywine - Lincoln Babcock, Niles Brandywine, 6-1 , 6-0/

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